

HOUSE RESOLUTION 321
By Harmon

A RESOLUTION to commend Roy Thomas Johnson for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee and Sequatchie County.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative Body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of service to the good people of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Roy Thomas Johnson is one such estimable person who has served for nearly twenty-two years as Sequatchie County Road Supervisor; he took office on September 1, 1984; and

WHEREAS, Roy Johnson followed in the footsteps of his father, Gaither Johnson, who held the position for fourteen years, from 1952 to 1966; during that time, Roy Johnson helped his father on the job when he was needed; and

WHEREAS, Roy Thomas Johnson was born on June 4, 1939, on a farm located on Ray Johnson Road to Gaither H. and Ester Lewis Johnson; he was one of fourteen children; and

WHEREAS, while attending Center Point Grammar School, he had to walk nearly a mile every morning and evening to ride the school bus; Roy Johnson graduated from Sequatchie County High School in 1957, and was voted as the friendliest of his graduating class; and

WHEREAS, Roy Johnson grew up doing chores on the farm: feeding the stock, milking, hauling hay, and helping his father run a sawmill; a true patriot, he served two years in the United States Army and received a sharpshooter badge; and

WHEREAS, his family will always remember his tremendous act of strength and bravery in 1968, during which he saved his father's life when the motor on their boat suddenly stopped running, leaving them to float as they approached the fast-running rapids; in the swift current, Roy Johnson, with the help of the Almighty God, somehow held the boat's rope with one hand

and a nearby rock with the other until his father, crippled with arthritis, managed to get out of the boat; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson drove a truck, worked at DuPont in Chattanooga, and sold antiques before being elected as Sequatchie County Road Supervisor in 1984; when he took office, his budget for the department was extremely limited, and his equipment consisted of two broken-down graders; one running dump truck and three which were out of service; two mowers; one backhoe; and one track loader, which fell apart after the first month; and

WHEREAS, currently, the department is in possession of five mowers; five dump trucks; two backhoes; four snow plows; two salt spreaders; two asphalt spreaders; and two steel wheel rollers; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, eighty percent of the county roads were gravel; in 2006, under Roy Johnson's illustrious tenure as County Road Supervisor, all roads are chipped or hot mixed, and more than 100 miles have been added as county roads; and

WHEREAS, spending countless hours in service to the public good, Roy Johnson has worked assiduously to improve the quality of life of the residents in Sequatchie County; his greatest accomplishment has been replacing the dangerous, one-lane Hump Back Bridge using only Highway Department money when no Federal or State grants were available; and

WHEREAS, Roy Johnson has performed his County Road Supervisor duties with remarkable dexterity and unprecedented devotion, and his efforts to excel have brought substantial benefits to Sequatchie County and to this great State; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson has served his neighbors in Sequatchie County in numerous capacities, always working diligently at his elected duties and expending the necessary effort to understand and solve complex issues; and

WHEREAS, he is a active member of the Tennessee County Highway Officials Association and the Region II Highway Association; and

WHEREAS, the good people of Sequatchie County evinced their great faith in the skills and capabilities of Roy Johnson when electing him as their County Road Supervisor, a position in which he has performed admirably for more than twenty years; and

WHEREAS, his professional duties and accomplishments aside, Roy Johnson is most thankful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife of twenty-five years, Dean Sprouse; he has four step-children; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Roy Johnson has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism and commitment to excellence that are characteristic of all true Tennesseans; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and commend Roy Thomas Johnson upon his meritorious service to the citizens of Sequatchie County and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.